OUR ONE TALENT-THE CHURCH: Shall we bury it or invest it?

Parable of the Talents, Matt.25:14-30.

God is the owner of all things and we as stewarts must give account of all that is entrusted to us, our life, our time, our abilities, our accumulated possessions, our opportunities, our all.

Dr.Coats pointed out last Sunday that we should lose our lives in unselfish service because God was giving His life in lkving service on behalf of His children and their welfare; that in so losing our lives we save them. I went home and asked myself the ? "Why is it necessary for us thus to sacrifice and serve in order to save our lives?" My answer- because Life is a matter of investment. Creation is the investment of God, from which He expects to receive certain returns. God has invested His all in His children created in His own image with whom He expects to share in the benefits and joy of His investment.

When we get into ~~touch~~ fellowship with God- in touch with His loving and giving and serving- we'll not wait to be asked to love and give and serve, for we'll just go to work at once and love and give and serve all we can. Why? Because loving and giving and serving with God for the good of all His children represents the only enduring investments we can make. All other investments do not last and most of them are not safe at all.

All investments for selfish purposes fail to give satisfying returns: that is why you see so many well-to-do people miserable and unhappy.

We are the wealthiest nation in the world, and yet, men of recognized authority tell us that our wealth is not our security as a nation; that our security is contained in the amount of faith and vision and courage and perseverence and thrift and industry with which our people invest their lives. These are spiritual qualities, the talents with which God has endowed us, and for a right investment of which we must render account.

It pays to be good, it pays to be honest, it pays to exercise faith, have vision and practice courage thrift and industry. It pays to live godlikely, to work with God and imitate Him in His investments; in fact, these are the only things in life which do pay.

Have been askee tby the manager of the Every-Member-Canvass to speak to you concerning the Canvass for this year.

God has entrusted the members of the Community Church of Vacaville as such with one talent- its opportunity as a Church. Shall we bury our talent or invest it? This question is going to be answered largely next Sunday when our representatives go forth to secure subscriptiond for the coming year.

I do not mean that raising the budget in itself will insure the success of the Community Church of Vacaville, for there is much else to accomplish besides raising the budget becore we can succeed as a church. But I do mean that the subscriptions given

will indicate quite accurately the amount of interest, faith courage, vision, thrift and industry which the constituency of the church has in in the opportunity which is ours as a Community Church. To give as little as possible, just enough to hold on and no more, would be doing exactly what the servant did who was entrusted with the one talent- it will be burying our opportunity as a church, not investing it.

Surely ours is an opportunity. Having a membership of nearly 200, an enrollment in the S.S. of 250, a live C.E. Society and missionary society, a Ladies Aid of over 100, a contact with the entire community thru the larger evening service, and many friends of the church who are willing to help if asked, what a tragedy it would be to bury our opportunity! No! I believe that the constituency of the church will invest the talent which God has entrusted to it.

I believe that we are going to profit by our experience of having worked together as three denominations in perfect harmony and peace by moving forward to the perfection of our organization, to the

improvemant of our equipment, to the increase of our efficiency and to the widening of our influence for good thruout Vacaville and the surrounding country.

The officers of the church have carefully prepared the budget. 35 members have volunteered to make the canvass, next Sunday afternoon. The consituency is being prepared for visitation. Now let our prayers go up to God for His blessing and the guidance of His Spirit. Then let us go forth and do the work which is ours to do; let us invest our opportunity so as to bring in the largest returns possible on the investment.

The little girl who put her hand in a vase but could not draw it out.

Are we going to imitate the little one and hold on to our dollar, letting our opportunity pass by and squeezing the life out of our souls in the vase of Selfishness?